

		Department of Community Affairs	
<p align="center">News Release</p>			
<p>FOR RELEASE: July 28, 2005</p>			
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<p align="center"><u>Cobb County Designated As Georgia's Newest WaterFirst® Community</u></p>			
<p>Atlanta, GA - Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Mike Beatty announced today the designation of Cobb County as the state's sixth WaterFirst® Community. This designation officially recognizes Cobb County's commitment to excellence in water resource management and stewardship. The community was formally recognized in a ceremony today.</p> <p>"Careful management of our water resources requires a strong commitment to stewardship and solid leadership. Both the Cobb County Water System and the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority are recognized for their water efficiency practices, strong customer and youth education programs and other strong management practices. Today, DCA is very pleased to recognize the leaders and citizens of Cobb County for their shared commitment to stewardship of our water resources by designating Cobb County as Georgia's sixth WaterFirst® Community," said Commissioner Beatty.</p> <p>The WaterFirst® Community Program, led by the Department of Community Affairs, is a voluntary partnership between local governments, state and federal agencies and other organizations working to improve the management and protection of our shared water resources.</p> <p>Added Beatty: "Cobb County is known as a community that actively embraces innovation in many aspects of its operations. We are pleased that water resource management is not an exception. By relying on innovation and research and embracing best practices, Cobb County has found another way to demonstrate a strong commitment to serving its residents."</p> <p>Cobb County is the first entity to receive a WaterFirst® Community designation in 2005. Previously designated WaterFirst® communities include the Columbus Waterworks/ Columbus Consolidated Government, City of Hartwell, Clayton County/ Clayton County Water Authority, Gwinnett County and the City of Savannah.</p> <p>Cobb County Water System is a AAA bond rated retail water and wastewater system serving approximately 166,000 accounts. It is an agency of the Cobb County Government. Over the years CCWS water treatment plants, water quality lab, water distribution system, wastewater operations and maintenance, and public education programs have been recognized for excellence by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals. Cobb County has also been recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program. Cobb's recognition as a leader in the water and wastewater field is the direct results of the Agency's leadership and staff contributions. Robert L. Brice serves as the Agency's director.</p> <p>The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA), a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, is a regional water wholesaler with 13 customers that serve over 750,000 people. Customers include Cobb County, all of the municipalities within Cobb County, all of Paulding County, and portions of Douglas County, Cherokee County and Fulton County. The Authority withdraws water from both ACF (Chattahoochee River) and the ACT (Lake Allatoona) River Basins. A. Roy Fowler, III serves as the Authority's general manager.</p> <p>The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was created in 1977 to serve as an advocate for local governments. DCA operates a host of state and federal grant programs; serves as the state's lead agency in housing finance and development; promulgates building codes to be adopted by local governments; provides comprehensive planning, technical and research assistance to local governments; and serves as the lead agency for the state's solid waste reduction efforts.</p>			